

cuts to SNAP and other nutrition assistance programs will increase hunger in America, and we will see even greater consequences.

Hungry children cannot learn in school and suffer developmental delays. Hungry children have worse health outcomes. Hungry children have bleaker economic outlooks through the rest of their adult lives. But the impacts don't stop there.

Cuts to critical nutrition programs don't just hurt the hungry families who rely on them, they hurt the economies of local communities, as families have less money to spend in local stores. Allowing an increase in hunger across America will threaten our Nation's ability to develop the highly skilled and highly educated workforce that we will need to compete in the 21st century.

We must not make cuts on the backs of hungry children to balance our budgets. Doing so would be morally wrong and an economic disaster.

Madam Speaker, instead of scheduling a 37th vote to repeal the Affordable Care Act, we should come together to work to find an approach for all Americans to help get everyone back to work.

We need a comprehensive solution to replace the sequester and to address the ongoing crisis of poverty. That is why, with the support of our Democratic Caucus, we started a Task Force on Poverty and Opportunity in February, which I am proud to chair. We are working to build support for a comprehensive national strategy to help eliminate poverty, grow the economy, and create millions of new jobs, and I urge all of my colleagues to join us.

I also hope that our colleagues will join myself, Representative JIM MCGOVERN, our Congressional Black Caucus chair, MARCIA FUDGE, Congresswoman JAN SCHAKOWSKY, and our Democratic Caucus vice chair, JOE CROWLEY, in taking the food stamp challenge. We need to raise the level of awareness of what is taking place here in Washington, D.C., and so what we're going to do is commit ourselves to limiting our food budget to the average SNAP benefit for a week. That's \$1.40 per person per meal. We will show how vital it is to strengthen and fully fund SNAP. And we're asking all of those who can do this to join with us.

We've got to protect the most vulnerable, grow the economy, and SNAP is one of the best programs to do just that. So it's time not to slash it, but to support it.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 46 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

Dr. Mike Landry, Sarasota Baptist Church, Sarasota, Florida, offered the following prayer:

Heavenly Father, I approach Your throne on behalf of a Nation that desperately needs You. We are faced with much division and disunity in our land, and we request Your healing and reconciling touch. We thank You that You are not a spectator God who sits in Heaven unconcerned and uncaring.

We acknowledge that the greatness of our Nation is due to Your blessing and provision. And we know that You have blessed us in order that we might be a blessing to other nations. We understand that to whomever much is given, much will be required.

Father, grant these legislative leaders wisdom and courage to make decisions today that honor You. May Your will be done on Earth, just as it is in Heaven.

Pour out Your grace and protect the marriages and families of these, our Nation's leaders.

I offer this prayer in the name of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Texas (Mr. OLSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. OLSON led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOMING DR. MIKE LANDRY

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BUCHANAN) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. BUCHANAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege this morning to welcome a very good friend to the Halls of Congress. Pastor Mike Landry, who delivered the opening prayer this morning, is a great spiritual leader in Sarasota, Florida. For the past 16 years, he has served as senior pastor to the Sarasota Baptist Church, located in the heart of my district.

My wife, Sandy, and I have had the pleasure of knowing the pastor for nearly 5 years. He is very devoted to his family, his church, his congregation, and serving the people of southwest Florida. He has made himself an incredible and beloved member of our community.

I commend Pastor Landry for his outstanding service to our community and to our Nation. It's my honor today to welcome him here to the House of Representatives.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. YODER). The Chair will entertain 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

THE TRUTH ABOUT BENGHAZI

(Mr. LONG asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address an important issue: the attack against America and its citizens by terrorists in Benghazi. Four Americans, including our Ambassador, Chris Stevens, have been killed. The American people deserve the truth about Benghazi and to know who was responsible, not convenient stories blaming the violence on some filmmaker's free speech rights. The people who died deserve justice.

As we investigate this attack, and the response of the civilian and military leaders in command, we must determine whether the paralysis that seemed to characterize the government's reaction was the result of individual bad decisions or a broader institutional problem.

Our military and our soldiers are the most capable in the world, but if their commanders refuse to send them into battle, they cannot safeguard American lives or interests.

The American people and our allies abroad need to know that the United States has the resolve to act in the face of uncertainty. Our enemies need to know that when they attack Americans, they do so at great danger because Americans do not leave our people behind.

HONORING HOLOCAUST EDUCATION AND RESOURCE CENTER

(Mr. CICILLINE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)